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Money Stand or Fall? Increased competition threatens Tnuva's monopoly It's all in the Money Magazine TODAY

Iran warns Israel over pact with Turkey Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

IRAN has warned Israel against using a military accord with Turkey to strike at Tehran, saying it would retaliate if attacked, a newspaper reported yesterday. "It is not believed that Turkey poses a threat against us, but we are watching our enemies' slightest moves and will use our retaliatory capacities if necessary," air force deputy commander Gen. Shahram Rostami was quoted by the daily Iran as saying.

Kfar Sava man tries to kill daughters, then kills himself

A Kfar Sava man killed himself yesterday after attempting to murder his two teenage daughters. The girls, 14 and 17, suffered light neck wounds.

Netanyahu: The choice is peace or terror

PM to Christopher: We'll talk to PA in coming days

DAVID MAKOVSKY

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday pledged to US Secretary of State Warren Christopher that he would hold a dialogue with the Palestinian Authority "in the coming days."

According to officials in the Prime Minister's Office, Netanyahu told Christopher privately that when talks with the PA are held, the first item on the agenda will be PA action against terrorism.

One official denied that this constitutes a precondition. "Terror is not a precondition for holding talks, but rather the issue of terror is pivotal for progress on peace."

However, a senior Clinton administration official said Netanyahu did not say that the terrorism issue be resolved before other peace process questions could be addressed.

Netanyahu suggested the dialogue would be held by diplomatic adviser Dore Gold and top Arafat aide Mahmoud Abbas.

There is speculation that Netanyahu agreed to provide answers to both questions - Arafat and Hebron - when he meets President Bill Clinton at the White House on July 9.

On the plane en route here, Christopher reportedly said he would urge Israel to establish an unspecified dialogue with Arafat and adhere to the international commitment to an IDF pullback in Hebron.

Yesterday's meeting gave each side an opportunity to break the ice amid a widespread belief that the Clinton administration showed



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu escorts US Secretary of State Warren Christopher into their private meeting at the PM's office yesterday.

Levy angered by FM official's attempt to set up meeting with Arafat

FOREIGN Minister David Levy yesterday instructed Ilan Baruch, director of the ministry's Autonomy Division, to immediately sever all contact with representatives of the Palestinian Authority.

In recent weeks, Baruch - whose role is to coordinate political, security, and economic matters with the PA - met several times with PA security heads Mohammed Dahlan and Jibril Rajoub and other members of the PA's security apparatus.

Baruch reported some of the contents of these meetings to his superiors, but sources said he never reported on his attempts to arrange a Levy-Arafat meeting.

Day of tragedy on roads leaves 5 dead

FIVE persons were killed and 23 injured - six of them critically - in road accidents throughout the country yesterday.

Kiryat Gat residents Ilan Tal, 41, and Radislav Dvaydov, 16, were killed and seven others injured, when their car was struck by a truck around 5:30 a.m. yesterday.

A 21-year-old Revaya man was in critical condition with head injuries after he lost control of his car and it overturned in the morning at the entrance to Moshav Menahemya in the Jordan Valley.

Two trucks collided Monday on the old Tel Aviv-Haifa highway, critically wounding driver Ziad Nagedat. He died of his injuries while on the way to the hospital.

A 50-year-old Romanian worker was killed Monday night when he was struck by a minibus while attempting to cross a street near Rehovot.

The sackings, the latest stage in a purge of top brass and security bosses, came eight days before the July 3 runoff election pitting him against Communist Gennady Zyuganov.

Yeltsin, showing the seriousness with which he views the incident, has now dismissed four out of the five generals implicated by Lebed, including first deputy head of the General Staff Viktor Barynk, deputy commander of Land Forces Vladimir Shulikov, and head of the defense minister's personal staff Valery Lapshov.

The personnel changes followed meetings between Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov, and Lebed, the second meeting with his security supremo in as many days.

Husseini: Arafat, to meet with Netanyahu soon

BILL HUTMAN

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat will likely meet "within a month," because there is no choice if the peace process is to get back on track.

"We must start a direct dialogue again," Hussein told The Jerusalem Post at Orient House, the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem.

"I don't know if Mr. Arafat likes Mr. Netanyahu; I don't know whether Mr. Arafat likes Mr. Netanyahu," Hussein said.

Husseini said he thinks there will be an Arafat-Netanyahu meeting in "a matter of weeks. I hope in a number of days. But for sure in less than a month. I think that meeting must take place here ... Maybe on the border, at Erez, for example."

Husseini did not rule out the two leaders meeting abroad. "It would also be good to have it in Washington. But the point is that we start talking again directly. Why not?" he said.

On the matter of Orient House, Hussein said he does not

Yeltsin continues army purge in preparation for election

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who like any other Kremlin leader keeps a close eye on the people with the guns, yesterday sacked seven army generals who had close ties to former defense minister Pavel Grachev.

The sackings, the latest stage in a purge of top brass and security bosses, came eight days before the July 3 runoff election pitting him against Communist Gennady Zyuganov.

Yeltsin, under pressure from Lebed, is getting rid of those generals Grachev had installed, said Alexei Zaitchenko, commentator for the newspaper Svobodnyy. "Those generals have little behind them apart from wives, children, and property," Zaitchenko said.

World's last Yiddish daily to disappear

PARIS (Reuters) - The world's last daily Yiddish newspaper, Unczer Wort (Our Word), will fold at the end of this month, a victim of rising costs which killed several bigger French dailies in past years.

Unczer Wort had already dwindled down to just three or four issues a week in recent years.

It was staffed by half a dozen full-time personnel, most in their late 70s, aided by volunteers who sought to preserve the former language of east European Jewry.

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העדה הלאומית



Supreme Court President Aharon Barak (left), President Ezer Weizman and Justice Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman make a toast yesterday at a swearing-in ceremony for new judges. (Efraim Kilshuk)

Barak: Judiciary must be made independent of executive

THE judiciary should be made more independent of the executive, Supreme Court President Aharon Barak said yesterday. Barak, who was speaking at a judges' swearing-in ceremony, said the principle of separating the branches of government means the judiciary must be made independent branch and cannot be dependent on the executive. At

present, the judiciary's budget is set by the executive, and directed via the Justice Ministry. However, he said there is no argument about the fact that the judiciary must be dependent - via the state budget - on the Knesset. The new judges sworn in yesterday include Nava Kapulinsky, Alisa Miller, Boaz Okon and

Meir Shenav, named as magistrate's court judge in the Tel Aviv and central area. Sara Meiri was sworn in as a Tel Aviv Labor Court judge; Miriam Rabas a northern district magistrate; Ron Sokol as a Haifa Magistrate's Court judge; and Shira Ben-Shlomo as a traffic court judge in the Tel Aviv and central areas. (Itim)

Police may probe Ne'eman for witness tampering

POLICE are considering opening an investigation into allegations that Justice Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman tried to interfere with a witness in the trial of MK Aryeh Deri, police sources said yesterday. Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair on Thursday asked Cmdr. Yossi Levy, head of Police Investigations, to determine whether an investigation is warranted into the allegations, that arose earlier this month during the Deri trial. Levy said yesterday that he is still looking into the matter, but declined to comment further. The sources said the final decision on whether to open an investigation will be made by Levy and Ben-Yair, as is normally the case in sensitive cases. A police memorandum presented in the Deri trial earlier this

month stated that British witness Martin Brown said Ne'eman had told him not to cooperate with police. Ne'eman strongly denied this, while Brown has refused to confirm the statement, which he allegedly made several years ago. Meanwhile, former Tsomet director-general Doron Shmueli was questioned by police yesterday about allegations he misused classified IDF documents. Environment Minister Rafael Eitan is under investigation by police on similar allegations. Police sources said while the alleged infractions were similar, the cases are being handled separately. Shmueli, Eitan, and other senior Tsomet members are suspected of using classified army documents

revealing unfavorable personal data about party activists to blackmail them out of the party. Police sources said that in Eitan's case, a recommendation he be charged is likely to be turned over to the Attorney-General's Office soon. Evelyn Gordon adds: The Movement for Quality Government in Israel asked Ben-Yair to ask the Knesset to lift the immunity of MK Raphael Pinhasi (Shas). The last Knesset refused to do so, but a new Knesset could theoretically act differently. The movement also asked Ben-Yair to bar Pinhasi from chairing the Knesset House Committee, since it deals with immunity requests. Shas has been granted chairmanship of this committee, but the party has not yet awarded the post to a specific MK.

Three remanded for making, selling Ecstasy

THREE persons suspected of manufacturing and selling thousands of Ecstasy pills were remanded yesterday for eight days by Ramle Magistrate's Court. The arrests followed a six-month undercover investigation resulting in the discovery of a secret laboratory in Kfar Aharon, near Ness Ziona, equipped to manufacture thousands of Ecstasy pills daily. Hanan Rabin, 43, of Yavne, Daniel Blum, 41, and his former wife, Aliza, 40, of Rishon LeZion were arrested on Sunday. All are suspected of manufacturing the

drug over the past year. Rabin is also suspected of importing chemicals used in making the drug. Police requested the maximum 15-day remand, arguing that other arrests are imminent and that detectives investigating the case still have to examine chemicals, text books, and machinery seized from the lab. A number of Ecstasy pills were found at the home of Aliza Blum, who has two children. She is suspected of transferring drugs from one place to

another. Rabin was arrested in the laboratory as he was making the drug, but police believe he also had a hand in dealing huge quantities of Ecstasy. Daniel Blum denied all connection with the affair and his lawyer said police have no evidence connecting him with illicit drug manufacture or trafficking. Aliza Blum's lawyer argued unsuccessfully that since his client has a clean record and has worked for Israel Aircraft Industries for the past 18 years, there was no reason for her to be held in custody.

Investment official indicted for embezzling NIS 13m.

YOSEF Topol, former comptroller of the Amot Investment Corporation, was indicted yesterday by Tel Aviv District Court on charges of theft, fraud, forgery and breach of trust. Topol, 56, is accused of embezzling nearly NIS 13 million from the company over a nine-year period. He has already admitted the theft, but detectives believe Topol embezzled more than NIS 30 million. They have still not traced all the money, but believe some was invested in property in London. Topol said he had spent it. According to the indictment, Topol would write checks payable

to himself and family members, with copies and invoices made out to Mifalei Tahanot, a company under contract with Amot, which is a Bank Hapoalim subsidiary. He would forge the second signature required on the checks. The copies were then forwarded to the company's accounts department. Thirty-seven checks were issued in this way and deposited in family members' bank accounts before being transferred to unknown destinations. Topol's son, Eran, and daughter-in-law, Yasmin, were charged with fraud-

ulently receiving money. They are accused of opening various savings accounts and transferring money from one account to another. Prosecutor Nava Schiller has asked for Topol's remand until the end of proceedings and a hearing on the request has been set for this morning. Meanwhile, Amot is suing Topol for NIS 30 million in civil proceedings. Police have described the scam as "very sophisticated." Although Topol offered to give evidence against others who he claims stole hundreds of millions, detectives believe he acted alone.

Defendant not obligated to attend trial



Shimon Shoshani, outgoing director-general of the Education Ministry, has been named director-general of the Jewish Agency. Shoshani, 59, will assume his new post next month and be responsible for continuing the process of reform begun by Chairman Abraham Burg. (Efraim Kilshuk)

DEFENDANTS do not have to be present at their trials if there is no real necessity for their presence, according to a High Court of Justice ruling. The ruling was issued in response to a petition by three businessmen, Yitzhak Shani, Yosef Diamant, and Ephraim Gilad, who are currently on trial in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court. The three argued that their obligation to appear at the sessions, which are being held three days a week, is damaging their businesses. The petitioners had originally asked the lower court to permit them not to attend, but the court rejected the request, saying their presence is an obligation, as well

as a right. They then petitioned the High Court. Justices Aharon Barak, Mishael Cheshin, and Dalia Dorner ruled that a defendant must be present only if he is needed on a particular day - for instance, if a witness has to identify him, or if the court wants to see his reaction to a particular piece of testimony. They directed the lower court to re-evaluate the petitioners' request in light of this ruling. Dorner noted that the law which forbids a trial to be held without the defendant present is meant to protect his right to a fair trial. However, she said, this does not mean a defendant cannot waive his right to be present.

"Obligating the defendant to be present at his trial infringes on his right to freedom, which is enshrined in the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom," she wrote. Such a requirement might also infringe on his right to freedom of occupation, which is also enshrined in a basic law, she added. Barak also rejected the suggestion that perhaps a defendant should be forced to attend his trial as a way of keeping him off the streets. "The criminal process is meant to uncover the truth," he wrote. "It is not intended to impose hardship on the defendant." (Itim)

Eitan begins learning about garbage

THE Hirya landfill near Tel Aviv is a hazard to aircraft using Ben-Gurion Airport. Airport Authority representatives told Environment Minister Rafael Eitan yesterday. Eitan started his first field visit at Hirya to study the problems of solid waste disposal. He refused to discuss the possible transfer of some of the matters now under his jurisdiction to the planned national infrastructure ministry to be led by MK Ariel Sharon. He was also reticent about the police inquiry into him and other Tsomet members, saying only, "There are some people trying to dig up anything against me." He did not make any clear statement on his solid waste policy either. Hirya, near Lod, should

have closed at the end of 1995, and the garbage from the central region should have been transported to the Duda'im landfill near Beersheba, but the Duda'im expansion has been opposed by local residents. Yesterday afternoon, Eitan visited Duda'im and had a meeting at the Beersheba Municipality to hear its side of the issue. Hanan Liss, deputy Airport Authority director, said the height of the artificial hill created by the Hirya garbage dump is close to being the maximum possible without endangering planes approaching and leaving the airport, and the birds who flock above the dump present another

hazard, as they can be sucked into the engines. Despite the closure decision, the site still takes in 6,000 cubic meters of waste a day. Yosef Givoli, chairman of the Dan Region Towns Association, said the site can only remain open for another two years at the most, and the best solution is to turn it into a transit site for garbage being transported to Duda'im. He said every step should be taken to reduce the amount of waste by encouraging recycling and compost projects. Eitan said he needs more time to study the issue before making a decision on when to close the dump and to form an opinion on expanding Duda'im.

New Telecard dedicated to preventing domestic violence

BEZEQ has issued a new Telecard dedicated to the prevention of violence in the family. All proceeds from sales of the telephone card will be devoted to WIZO's efforts to prevent family violence, assist the victims and educate both victims and violators. Some 100,000 Telecards with the slogan, "Help us say no to violence in the family," have been produced. They picture four TV stars popular among children: Michal Yanai, Itai Segev, Oded

Menashe and Pinna Dvorin. They will be sold in Supersol and Hypercol stores at the same price as in postal branches, but the chain stores will donate all profits to WIZO. The phone card, usable in public telephones, is expected to become popular among Telecard collectors. Bezeq director-general Yitzhak Kaul said he is proud to participate in such an effort. World WIZO president Michal Moda'i

said there are 200,000 battered women and 660,000 children who suffer from active or passive violence in the home. Last year, WIZO alone received some 5,000 calls from battered women, and its hostels house 1,200 women and 2,500

children afraid to live at home. Some 65 percent of the families were treated in special center and escaped from the cycle of violence. Supersol president David Alhandary said it is his company's policy to cooperate with organizations that promote social goals.

Aloni: Don't return to cultural arrogance

SAYING that she has left culture and the arts in better shape than she found it four years ago, former Arts, Science and Communications minister Shulamit Aloni (Meretz) had a pat on the back and a word of warning yesterday for Education and Culture Minister Zevulun Hammer (NRP). "I'm optimistic. I think that Hammer will try to prove he is everybody's minister and so they won't take axes (to cultural bodies), but they may strangle some," she said. "Let arts and culture flourish for everybody. They rank with science and technology as the best and most creative of our endeavors." Hammer, she warned, should neither attempt to reimpose an

intellectual ghetto nor return to an attitude of cultural arrogance which dismisses everything outside Torah and Talmud as chaff. "It worries me that I have his books in my library, as it were, but that he has none of mine, those which belong to creative Israel and are unknown to his community. There are things that go beyond [the cries of] 'Messiah, Messiah,'" Aloni said. Arts and Culture Authority head Yossi Frost said the national arts budget had increased by some 70 percent in real terms from NIS 90 million in 1992 to NIS 265 million for fiscal '96. "This sum is still far short of the

NIS 400 million we would be getting today had the government approved the NIS 300 million Aloni requested in 1993," Frost said. The funding proposal was submitted in light of recommendations from the nine ministerial committees Aloni appointed to examine the proper funding and management of all the arts. During her tenure Aloni established the first professional Arab theater in Israel, with a NIS 2 million budget, and increased the overall Arab culture budget from NIS 2.9 million to NIS 12.6 million; increased funding to the film industry from NIS 3.9 million to NIS 16.2 million; and deepened Israel's cultural links with foreign countries.

Greens protest public fare raise

LIFE and Environment, the umbrella group of all environmental associations in the country, is protesting the reported plans of the Finance Ministry to raise the fares on public transportation by cutting subsidies, while reducing the purchase tax on private vehicles. Fares would be raised by 10 percent, while the tax would be slashed from 95 percent to 50 percent. The group's chairman, Yosef Tamir, has asked the government to reconsider the decision, which he said would be both environmentally detrimental and cause greater financial hardship to the most needy sectors of the population. He said the use of public transportation should be encouraged as a way of improving road safety.

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Milosevic demands Karadzic's ouster

SERBIAN leader Slobodan Milosevic ordered the Bosnian Serbs to oust their "president" Radovan Karadzic immediately or face reprisals from Yugoslavia.

The ultimatum from Belgrade yesterday was denounced as a betrayal by hardliners in the Bosnian Serb parliament, as it met in Pale to review world pressure for Karadzic's resignation.

There were signs the Serbian president's strongarm tactics could backfire after hints earlier that Karadzic, who has been indicted by the UN as a war criminal, was ready to step down.

"If they keep on insisting that the Bosnian Serb republic offer more concessions like Milosevic did [during the peace negotiations] in Dayton, that would be counter-productive," a Bosnian Serb government official said. "We are not ready for concessions."

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said senior Bosnian Serb envoys were told to get rid of Karadzic at a meeting in Belgrade with Milosevic and the presidents of rump Yugoslavia - comprising only Serbia and Montenegro - and Montenegro on Monday.

DAN DE LUCE
PALE, Bosnia

The West has threatened Milosevic and the Bosnian Serbs with renewed sanctions if Karadzic stays in power to obstruct the peace process and inter-ethnic elections in Bosnia on September 14.

Tanjung quoted an official statement in Belgrade as saying: "An acting president of the Bosnian Serb republic with full powers must be appointed immediately to prevent its citizens' interests being further jeopardized in the implementation of the peace agreement."

It warned of unspecified reprisals if the Bosnian Serb parliament did not comply, but the Bosnian Serb republic depends heavily on rump Yugoslavia for its economic survival.

The ultimatum was issued in the name of Federal President Zoran Ljilic in keeping with Milosevic's practice of maintaining a low public profile while wielding most power in Yugoslavia.

When news of it filtered through to the parliament session, journalists, including Bosnian

Serb reporters, were immediately cleared from the vicinity while deputies clustered in agitated groups.

The parliament has defied Milosevic before, most famously in 1993-94 when it refused to endorse international peace plans on which the Serbian president had staked his credibility.

Bur Milosevic has shown that he can make the Pale leaders obey him in a crisis. He forced them to free 400 hostage UN peacekeepers last year and also to let him negotiate the Dayton agreement on their behalf.

He has turned a deaf ear for months to Western pleas for Karadzic's dismissal and extradition to the UN court in The Hague.

Political sources in Belgrade said Milosevic probably decided to become more amenable when it became evident that communist Alexander Zuyganov, his favored candidate in Russia's presidential election, would probably be defeated.

Without a sure ally in Kremlin, Milosevic is much more vulnerable to the threat of a renewal of the 31/2 years of trade and oil sanctions which helped destroy the Yugoslav economy. (Reuters)



Republican presidential challenger Bob Dole (right) chats with Cardinal John O'Connor yesterday outside St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, before meeting with him at O'Connor's residence. The cardinal, a fervent foe of abortion, said later that he was satisfied with Dole's stand on the abortion issue. (Reuters)

Hawkish Yeltsin proposes closer union with Ukraine

MOSCOW, June 25 (Reuters) - With an election looming, Russian President Boris Yeltsin tried to steal some thunder from his Communist rival yesterday when he urged a close-knit union between Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

"The political foundation of CIS relations could be a union with Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine - with the goodwill of the latter," Yeltsin wrote in an annual report on Russian national security sent to the two houses of parliament.

Belarus and Kazakhstan signed an accord aimed at closer union with Russia earlier this year.

The report, cited by Interfax news agency, underlined any such

union would "respect territorial integrity," but Ukraine opposes any kind of union with Russia and generally dismisses the CIS as an ineffectual body.

The Kremlin leader's underlying aim appears to be to steal thunder from his Communist opponent Gennady Zyuganov before the second round of Russia's presidential election on July 3.

Zyuganov, appealing to voters nostalgic for the Soviet past, has said he would like to see a reintegration of the Soviet Union and is ambivalent on Russia's relations with the west.

Yeltsin, who blasted NATO expansion over the weekend dur-

ing a memorial service near the Polish border marking Germany's invasion of Russia in June 1941, strove to highlight his hawkish credentials in the written address.

He wrote NATO expansion would "change the balance of power in Europe detrimentally to Russia, threatening Russia with isolation."

Yeltsin's popular new security supremo, Alexander Lebed, won a boost after Yeltsin named the Security Council as the organization which will "coordinate and control" the formulation of Russian security policy.

In a lightning purge of Russian security structures over the last week, Yeltsin appointed Lebed, a

tough-talking general who came third in the first round of the presidential elections, secretary of the Security Council and made him his national security advisor in a bid to win over Lebed's voters.

However, the Security Council has yet to win formal status and is attacked by the Communists as "unconstitutional."

On relations with the United States, Yeltsin pandered to wounded Russian pride, calling for equality between the two.

"From the long-term perspective, the US must be interested that Russian be a consolidated enough center of power to play a stabilizing role in Eurasia," Yeltsin wrote.

Havel: Czech cabinet pact stuck on minor points

PRAGUE (Reuters) - President Vaclav Havel said yesterday that minor points were keeping the three parties in the ruling Czech conservative coalition from sealing a deal to form a minority cabinet after inconclusive elections.

Speaking after meeting Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus and the leaders of the junior parties, Havel said a long-awaited agreement was within reach, but said two new sticking points had emerged beyond a protracted row over cabinet seats.

"The coalition negotiations about the government are intensively going forward, but I have to say they were not reached a final point yet," he told a news conference. "There were two minor things which are new problems which made it impossible to sign a

new coalition agreement," he said.

He declined to elaborate except to say the problems were not connected to the structure or personalities in the cabinet.

Klaus has been trying since the elections three weeks ago to rebuild his center-right coalition, which has pushed through sweeping economic reforms over the past four years.

None of the party leaders was available for comment after leaving the meeting with Havel at Prague Castle.

Talks immediately before the new parliament convened yesterday failed to produce agreement, bogged down in arguments over who gets what posts in the new cabinet.

US authorities believed Swiss accepted Nazi gold

LONDON (AP) - US authorities believed that Switzerland's secretive banks accepted millions of dollars of Nazi funds looted from Europe during World War II, according to a report this week in the Observer newspaper.

The newspaper quoted a recently uncovered US government memo written in 1946 which alleged Swiss banks had accepted \$123 million worth of gold from the Nazis at the height of the war, knowing it was stolen from Belgium.

After half a century of silence following World War II, the allegations come at a bad time for the Swiss Bankers Association.

Jews have claimed Swiss financial institutions accepted Nazi deposits stolen from Jews and that private holdings belonging to Jewish victims of the Nazis may have been sequestered by the banks.

On May 2, the association agreed with Jewish groups to a six-member independent commission to review claims by Nazi Holocaust victims.

However, the numbers involved in alleged

missing personal savings of Nazi victims pales beside the banks' acceptance of \$123,000,000 of Belgium gold.

The Observer reported it had obtained the memo from the World Jewish Congress, which uncovered it last week.

The memorandum, headed "Office of Military Government for Germany (US)," and dated February 1, 1946, accused the Swiss banks of knowingly accepting stolen gold deposited to them by the Nazi regime.

The memo, which paraphrased a telegram sent from the US State Department to the US Embassy in London, was written by Donald Heath, director of the office.

"It was known to monetary statisticians everywhere," the memo stated, "that at the start of the war the Germans possessed monetary gold reserves of about \$70,000,000 in gold which had been spent by Germany at the latest by 1943 in her war effort."

"If the Swiss accepted the 100 tons of gold offered them by the Germans in 1943 which was worth \$123,000,000, how can it be con-

ceded to the Swiss that they acted in good faith?"

The memorandum pointed out further evidence that the Swiss knew the gold deposits came from the Nazi looting of Belgium. The article did not make clear whether the money came from the Belgium National Bank or a mix of commercial banks and private funds.

"Moreover," the memo stated, "how can the Swiss claim they acted in good faith when this gold was acquired at the time they knew that it had been refused for those very reasons by the Swedes?"

However, the memorandum recommended that pressure on the Swiss to come clean over the origins of the gold would be counter-productive. The Allied powers had then begun negotiations with the Swiss over Nazi treasure looted from European states.

"Name calling can serve no useful purpose," the memo recommended, stating that the Swiss would be sensitive over their status as a neutral nation.

"Name calling can serve no useful purpose," the memo recommended, stating that the Swiss would be sensitive over their status as a neutral nation.

Prince Charles visits N. Ireland

BELFAST (AP) - Prince Charles, under tight security amid concerns about IRA violence, sought to ease the sharp divisions in Northern Ireland by bringing together Catholic and Protestant teenagers yesterday.

The prince began a three-day visit to the province by visiting a Belfast youth club set up to bridge the gap between the two religions.

The prince's charity, the Prince's Trust, partially funds the club, and other such centers in N. Ireland.

Charles was enthusiastically received as he left the club in the mostly Protestant area.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt thwarts militant violence, arrests 12
CAIRO (Reuters) - The Egyptian government has unearthed a group of Moslem militants who planned to carry out acts of violence, official sources said yesterday.

An Interior Ministry spokesman said the ministry would release a statement on the case today. He declined to give any details in advance.

An Arab diplomatic source said over the weekend that the Egyptian authorities had arrested 12 men planning violence to coincide with the Arab summit which took place in Cairo on Saturday and Sunday.

Iraq, Iran exchange remains of war dead
BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Iraq and Iran exchanged the remains of several hundred soldiers killed during their 1980-88 war, the official Iraqi News Agency said yesterday.

Iraq handed over the remains of 200 Iraqis while Iran delivered the bodies of 144 Iranians, INA said.

The exchange, which was based on a memorandum of understanding the two sides signed last September, took place in Shalamcha, just inside Iran on the Shatt al-Arab border river near the Iranian port of Khorramshahr and the Iraqi port of Basra. The area was the scene of some of the most fierce battles in the eight-year war.

Soviet FM criticizes US over Boutros-Ghali
MOSCOW (AP) - Russia's Foreign Ministry chided the United States yesterday for publicly opposing Boutros Boutros-Ghali's re-election as UN chief, saying the matter should have been handled privately.

Spokesman Mikhail Demurin said at a briefing that the US State Department statement that Washington might use its veto to block Boutros-Ghali's re-election as secretary general "cannot but cause surprise."

The statement "is inconsistent with the UN practice of Security Council member states having confidential consultations among themselves about the appointment of a secretary general and never making their position public."

Turkey alliance deal eludes Ciller, Islamists
ANKARA (Reuters) - Negotiations to end a nine-month power vacuum in Turkey barely advanced yesterday after conservative leader Tansu Ciller and the Islamists failed to conclude an alliance deal.

Senior Ciller aide Necmettin Cevheri said after a third round of talks that no deal had yet been reached. Any agreement would give Islamists their largest chunk of power in the secular NATO-member's modern history.

"The work will continue between the two groups. We are working on some points," Cevheri told a news conference after a 90-minute meeting between Ciller and Necmettin Erbakan, leader of the influential Islam-based Welfare Party.

Ciller, a former prime minister and leader of the conservative True Path Party (DYP), left parliament without talking to reporters.

Cevheri did not say when the two parties would renew talks but he added negotiations were continuing on details of the proposed alliance.

Nigeria talks with Commonwealth deadlocked
LONDON (Reuters) - Nigeria's hopes of being allowed back into the Commonwealth faded yesterday after a delegation from the Lagos government took an unexpectedly hard line in talks with the 56-nation body, diplomats said.

The delegation, meeting the Commonwealth for the first time since Nigeria was suspended last year for human rights abuses, said on Monday it wanted dialogue. Officials described the tone of the talks as unexpectedly friendly.

But yesterday, Nigerian Foreign Minister Tom Ikimi, who has proposed a four-step plan to end the crisis in relations, made it clear there was little room for compromise.

"The word is intransigence. The Nigerian delegation has not given anything away," said one diplomat after yesterday's first session of talks between Nigeria and the eight-nation Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG).

The Commonwealth suspended the populous oil-rich West African state last November after author Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other minority activists were executed for murder.

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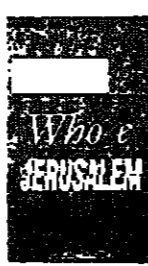
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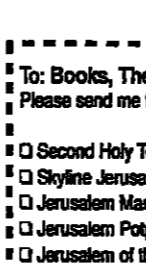
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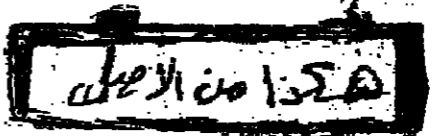
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The economics of terror

EVEN before US Secretary of State Warren Christopher landed in Israel yesterday for his meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu...

Given the grave condition of the Palestinian economy and its unquestionable effects on the peace process, Christopher's concerns certainly deserve high priority.

One does not need an MBA to comprehend the fact that the Palestinian economy needs immediate intensive care.

The Palestinian Authority is constantly trying to set up public works projects that will at least provide the unemployed with the barest of subsistence wages.

What went wrong since then is in no small part due to erroneous policies adopted by both the PA and the donors.

and Gaza Strip in response to actions taken by terrorist organizations that were not effectively confronted by the PA.

Only visible and effective PA fulfillment of its commitments under the Oslo agreements to fully fight terrorism - by disarming militias, preventing terrorist-related individuals from enlisting in its police force...

In the narrower sense, the donor nations, with the US in the lead, must return to their original demands of economic accountability on the part of PA Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Finally, the US can play a role in assisting the Palestinians by strengthening the Palestinian private sector. The problem with the vision of a "new Middle East" was that truly strong economic ties cannot be achieved between a market-based, democratic, industrial nation and centralized, tightly controlled administrations.

Off to America



Cairo: Land for threats

THE government ought to be more concerned by Monday's radio report that the IDF favors "evacuating" Hebron than by any announcement from Cairo on the perils of renegotiating agreements.

Announcing the military's stand on controversial political issues isn't normal practice in a democracy, although the chief of staff, who represents the army to the political echelon, is empowered, indeed obliged, to make recommendations to the government.

However, he has no business reporting his opinion on a sensitive issue like Hebron to the Palestinian Authority. No senior IDF officer has the authority to reveal, prior to the opening of negotiations with the PA, the army's concern that its failure to leave Hebron may cause an upsurge of violence.

The previous government's undertaking regarding Hebron didn't mention evacuation, only redeployment. And the practicalities of that will be determined by the new government, currently facing another pitfall: the question of redeployment in Area B, which covers most of Judea and Samaria.

Our politicians and press, adopting Arab terminology, talk about the "evacuation" of Hebron, when the correct term is redeployment. Worse, they refer to the Oslo agreement as an international treaty.

Secretary Christopher, a lawyer, is quite aware that the Oslo accord is not recognized as an international treaty under the definition of the Vienna Covenant. Certainly all commit-

MOSHE ZAK

ments should be honored, but always and only on the condition that each side complies. Christopher also knows that Israel didn't go to Madrid on the basis of "land for peace," as Mubarak claimed at the Cairo summit.

Who's afraid of Arab summits?

It is crystal-clear that Oslo was a bilateral commitment. So when Muammar Gaddafi quotes Yasser Arafat as having told him that the Palestinian Covenant hasn't been amended, and when the PA refuses to extradite to Israel murderers who struck on Israeli soil...

At the Cairo summit, moreover, Farouk Kaddoumi claimed that the Palestinian representatives at the summit were not PA but PLO; and that he, as head of the PLO's political department, was dissociating himself from the Oslo agreement.

THE PA is wrong if it believes that the support it mustered in Cairo will enable it to impose conditions on Israel. Arafat should look back to May 1990, when a summit convened in Baghdad on his initiative discussed emergency Arab measures to counter the flow of aliyah from the USSR.

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Baghdad. Even before Arafat was elected PLO chairman, Arab summits resolved to divert the Jordan and the Yarmuk rivers to diminish our water supply.

They established joint commands for "the war against Israel," but these remained on paper. In 1989, an Arab summit in support of the intifada, contributed very little to the Palestinian cause.

No Arab summit gave the Oslo agreement to the Palestinians, and no Arab summit will help Arafat gain Jerusalem as capital of a Palestinian state.

Had our government not responded to the Cairo summit in any way, its silence would have echoed far louder than any statement from the premier or the foreign minister.

It would have sent this message to all the Arabs: "Don't threaten us. We are ready to talk to every Arab party on its own, but we refuse to become involved in your shows of unity. We know that behind the trappings of unity lies great dissension - but that's your affair."

"If you want a dialogue with Israel you'll have to forgo all threats about 'an alternative to peace,' not to mention your ultimatum - implementation of your requests within eight weeks."

"We don't believe you have an alternative to peace, and we ourselves aren't looking for any alternatives to peace, despite your stockpiling of long-range missiles."

It is regrettable that the government felt it had to react to the Cairo summit, more regrettable still that the radio announcement of the IDF's position on Hebron gave those assembled in Cairo the impression that making threats to Israel was a useful thing to do.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

US should rethink Lebanon strategy

DAVID MAKOVSKY

SECRETARY of State Warren Christopher should seize upon the change of leadership in Israel as an opportunity to crown his tenure with a daring, yet feasible, achievement: getting Israel and Syria to come to terms on an IDF withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

The previous government's assumption was that the IDF would stay in Lebanon until there was a "package deal" involving a peace treaty with Damascus.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, almost everyone believes the Syrian track - even if it is to be revived from its moribund state - will be more motion than movement. Therefore, there should be new US thinking on southern Lebanon.

This is particularly important, because the Netanyahu government has no discernible exit strategy from southern Lebanon. There is neither a grand political package deal in the offing nor, as Israel's last 14 years in Lebanon have proved, is there a military option of defeating Hizbullah, which has public support for its guerilla warfare.

While defense officials insist a unilateral exit from the security zone may create border threats, they - like many in Labor and even the Likud -

The little known secret of Damascus is that it prefers the IDF to remain in southern Lebanon

believe Israel should get out of Lebanon.

This, on condition the Lebanese Army deploy southward and does to Hizbullah as it did to a dozen other militias in Lebanon over the past few years: disarm them.

A creative move for US diplomacy would be to galvanize a broad Arab coalition, led by President Bill Clinton, which would publicly throw down the gauntlet to Damascus: enable the Lebanese Army to deploy in southern Lebanon and disarm Hizbullah, with a prior commitment by Israel to exit after six months of successful disarmament.

Should Damascus decide to reject these terms, the US would make it clear to one and all that it holds Damascus responsible for Israel continuing to occupy Arab soil.

This would unmask before the world the little known secret of Damascus - that it prefers the IDF to remain in southern Lebanon. It sees the IDF deployment in the security zone as ensuring that Israel bleeds and, therefore, as its most important lever to get a militarily powerful Israel to yield the Golan Heights.

Everyone else has an interest in getting Israel out of Lebanon. The Lebanese would be able to extend their sovereignty in the South. The Arab world could point to Israel leaving Lebanon as a victory. For its part, Israel has always said it does not covet a square centimeter of Lebanese soil and that it would leave once security arrangements are in place. Moreover, Netanyahu could show himself to be a peace-maker and, at the same time, remove a thorn that has cost Israel too much blood.

According to remarks by President Bill Clinton last week, Damascus has miscalculated over the last four years and lost opportunities to obtain the Golan. Yet, with the Golan talks in deep freeze, it is either Lebanon or nothing.

Syria must be faced with a choice: to be seen as the country that brought about Israel's exodus from Arab soil or be blamed as the country that ensured Israel's remaining in Lebanon for the indefinite future.

Should Christopher succeed in putting together secure terms for Israel's exit, ending 14 years of bloodshed in southern Lebanon, this alone would justify his 24 trips to the Middle East and enshrine his contribution to the region.

The writer is diplomatic correspondent of The Jerusalem Post. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the paper.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LUDICROUS STATEMENTS

Sir, - Former Likud official Moshe Amirav's admission of his "long series of meetings with Faisal Hussein and other PLO figures" came as both a shock and a dreadfully disturbing fact as the Likud once again returns to power ("From ideological pain to compromise," June 14). For him to publicly flaunt his violation of the law, when in 1987 he met with these enemies of the Jewish State and people, was shocking enough. But to hear the content of the "message" he sent them was nothing less than appalling.

How could Amirav be shocked at the PLO's "enthusiastic reaction to dialogue with a representative of Greater Israel?" Anyone who is aware of the PLO's 1974 Plan of Stages knows that this is the road to implementation of the PLO's plan to dismember and destroy the State of Israel. Their plan is to first obtain as much land as possible during a negotiated settlement, and then use that area as a staging ground for attack on Israel.

AMIRAV'S suggestion that sacrificing one's ancestral heritage has any

comparison whatsoever with the world's leading terror organization's willingness to "give up a claim to Galilee" is just unfathomable. The Jewish people are a nation which became permanently tied to the Land of Israel. In the millennia of Diaspora, our one hope as a people was to return to the Land of Israel. Tell the Jews persecuted, tortured, burned and slaughtered throughout the centuries your thoughts of "historical compromise," Moshe. You'd be ashamed to even think such thoughts in their presence.

Amirav stressed his origins in the Betar movement, but displayed his obvious lack of knowledge of Jabotinsky's ideology. Jabotinsky, first and foremost, stressed the proud, strong Jew, one who fought against the nations of the world if they tried to attack or destroy the Jewish people or homeland. His desire to abandon those vital things which created and held the Jewish people together is hopefully not shared by his colleagues in the Likud.

Better late than never to begin talking to our enemies as we should have all along - from a position of strength, not surrender, and from a position of Jewish pride, something sorely lacking in both the Rabin and Peres governments... and lacking in Amirav.

SHAYNA SCHECHTER Jerusalem

STEREOTYPES

Sir, - Although Mr. Newman's article of June 13, "seeing is believing," rightly points out the divisions between observant and secular Jews in Israel, I was troubled by his comment that he does not wear his kippa all the time any more because it stereotypes him into which group he belongs. The purpose of wearing a kippa is to show a man's "fear of God" - a sign that he acknowledges God's existence and sovereignty over mankind. When one wears a kippa for the right reason, one is unconcerned as to others' perceptions of which political group or religious group he belongs to.

I would be delighted to hear from Mr. Newman in his next article that he has accepted my suggestion to wear his kippa all the time and if he puts anything away in his pocket, it should be his round-rimmed eyeglasses, which can always be traded in for contact lenses.

BEN ROSE Rehovot

ETHICAL JOURNALISM

Sir, - I thought Mr. Bar-Ilan was rightly indignant when Shimon Peres quoted an imprisoned Hamas mass murderer to prove that suicide bombings were designed to overthrow his government. But when Hassan Salamah, another Hamas mass murderer, said that his orders were to stage only minor attacks before the elections in order not to overthrow the government, Bar-Ilan quotes this greater inanity as an obvious truth.

Then on June 7, Bar-Ilan wrote that a radio report of two Hamas activists seeing Sheikh Ahmed Yassin in prison to receive orders not to attack Israelis until the elections were over was further proof that Hamas was not trying to overthrow Peres. But surely the Hamas activists were brought before Yassin precisely because the government believed this was their strategy, which only Yassin could change.

I conclude that Mr. Bar-Ilan is driven not by passion for truth, but by an agenda, and that his stance on behalf of ethical journalism is a sham.

HERMAN MINTZ Tel Aviv

Mr. Mintz seems to forget that Mr. Peres relied on the testimony of a Hamas prisoner in a Palestinian prison, while Salamah spoke at an Israeli hospital. - Ed. J.P.

DISHEARTENED

Sir, - Never could I have anticipated how disheartened I would be by the results of the elections. Netanyahu represents the very worst combination of American-style politics and retrospective Israeli macho toughness. How many more Israeli lives must be lost to have Israel show the world how "tough" it is? The world had acknowledged Israel's courage and is no longer necessary to prove it again.

When Peres and Rabin shook Arafat's hand on the White House lawn, the earth moved. We gain so much more with peace and negotiation than we ever can with Netanyahu's promise of a "gun in each Israeli's hand" and a vow never to shake Arafat's hand.

Israel has given the Arabs exactly the leverage they need to prove the value of their mindless terrorism.

JEROME J. SCHAUFELED Farmingham, Massachusetts

BLANK BALLOTS

Sir, - It seems wrong to change the rules of blank ballots after the game is over and lost. But maybe there is reason to reconsider the rules for future similar situations. Three considerations for reflection: 1. It is clearly not the intention of the voter who casts a blank ballot not to be counted. If that were the case, he would choose the easier way: to stay home and not cast a ballot at all.

2. If the blank ballots are not counted, there is no way for the voter to make his disapproval of both candidates effective as far as the result of the election is concerned.

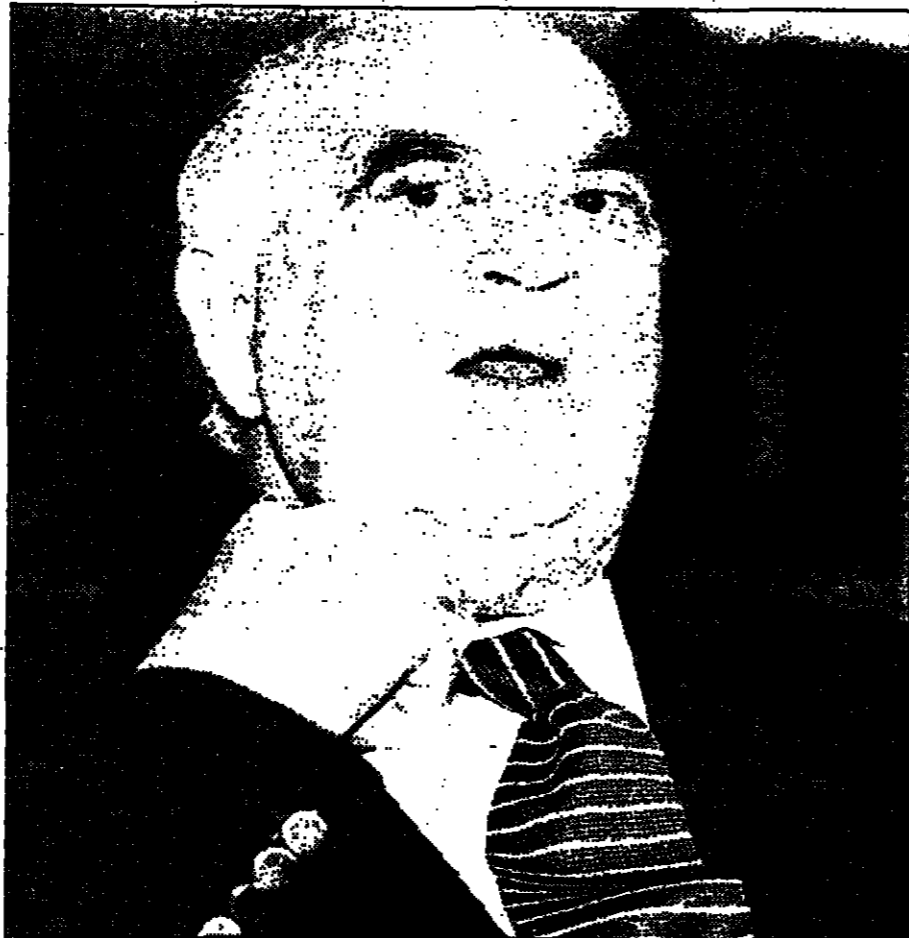
3. When there are only two candidates, the paragraph in the law stipulating that when neither of the candidates gets 50 percent of the votes, the election has to be repeated, loses its significance when blank ballots are not counted.

DR. D.J. JACOBS Tel Aviv

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page.

BGU gets the Weidenfeld clout

The visionary British publisher Lord Weidenfeld is now focusing on Ben-Gurion University, David Isaacson writes



Weidenfeld: Sciences and humanities are becoming interwoven more often. (Sarit Uziel)

In these times, when the former prime minister fancies himself as a prophet, and a 106-year-old kabbalist can determine the result of a general election through quasi-mystical charms, it's edifying to meet a genuine visionary, one whose foresight has repeatedly been borne out by events.

As a 13-year-old in Vienna in the 1930s, George Weidenfeld espoused Zionism while numerous Jews were being baptized in a desperate rush to assimilate.

In 1945, as a refugee in Britain, he published the young Harold Wilson's *The Future of Coal* before Wilson was even an MP. (As prime minister, Wilson later elevated Weidenfeld to the peerage.)

Fifty years later, recognizing both its inevitability and even perhaps its desirability, he advocated the reunification of Germany. Chancellor Kohl is said to have sought Weidenfeld's advice on the issue.

And it's more than 11 years since he predicted the rise of Binyamin Netanyahu, Yossi Beilin, Ehud Olmert and Avraham Burg.

In Israel recently to accept his new position as chairman of the Board of Governors of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Lord Weidenfeld has been turning his attention to the university's future.

The key to learning in the modern world, he believes, is interdisciplinary studies; or, as he puts it in characteristically worldly-wise and eloquent style, "flexibility that's not calcified through vested interests and bureaucracy."

In the tradition of C.P. Snow, whose 1960 published lecture *The Two Cultures and the Scientific Revolution* was a landmark in advocating greater understanding between the sciences and humanities, Weidenfeld says that "more and more, the sciences and humanities are becoming interwoven."

"The Internet raises problems of intellectual copyright, so that's a legal issue. Then there are ethical problems - can you have pornography? And the Internet also raises educational issues."

Weidenfeld points out that developments in the Middle East are particularly appropriate to the interdisciplinary approach as history, politics, comparative religion and languages merge into each other's spheres.

According to Dr Ze'evi, head of the Department of Middle East Studies at Ben-Gurion University, "Lord Weidenfeld's visit inspired the university; his enthusiasm spread to contributors and faculty alike."

Ze'evi says the university is becoming "a regional center in a very real sense. We bring researchers from Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia to teach and work for a whole semester. This is probably a first in the country when it comes to Middle East studies."

One of Weidenfeld's main aims is to raise the university's international profile. He's looking, he says, to "a massive program of visiting professors, important intellectual

giants and ambassadors of goodwill such as [British historian] Bernard Lewis and [strategic expert] Edward Luttwak."

Such is the British publishing magnate and sociable internationalist, it is difficult to imagine anyone turning him down. His connections are legendary, the stories about him - ever since his Vienna days, when he fought a saber duel with a Nazi - are legion.

In 1949 he was president Chaim Weizmann's personal aide cum political counselor. "They thought I could help mitigate the tensions between Weizmann and Ben-Gurion," he says. "I would have lived here were it not for Weidenfeld and Nicolson [the publishing house which he was in the process of establishing in London] and my financial commitment to other people."

The following year, in charge of fighting moves to internationalize Jerusalem, he went

to Lake Success to persuade the UN of Israel's position. His Operation Jerusalem was "an intensive campaign to combat the UN initiative to deny Jerusalem, even the new city, to the State of Israel."

And in the 1970s, in the wake of a disinformation campaign being waged against Harold Wilson, he returned to the US to meet with then-CIA chief George Bush, and to get a "kashrut certificate" for the Labor government.

His gift for diplomacy - particularly behind the scenes - is perhaps his greatest talent. He brought together leading international opinion-formers: Lloyd Cutler (an adviser to President Clinton), German Jewish community leader Ignatz Bubis, British Eurocrat Sir Leon Brittan, Lord Rothschild, David Kimche (a former director of Israel's Foreign Ministry) and Shlomo Avineri (Israeli writer and academic) to help foster "good relations between Germany and Jews, Germany and Israel, and Jews and Christians (especially Catholics)."

This, he says, is one of the things about his long career with which he's most gratified. Following the controversy surrounding the Carmelite convent at Auschwitz, he is said to have played a leading role in reconciling the Vatican and the Jewish world through his warm relationship with Pope John Paul II.

Weidenfeld's history of support for Israel on the diplomatic front is almost without parallel. An influential player in the British establishment, he has been one of Israel's leading supporters in the House of Lords.

So the new prime minister (another long-time confidant of the British peer) would be well advised to heed Weidenfeld's words on the peace process. Although Weidenfeld describes himself as "a congenial optimist" who feels that "in the long run, peace is probable, the process irreversible," he confesses to being "frightened in the short term, not due to crises resulting from policy decisions but from the unexpected, or the danger of psychological mistakes. Face-saving is very important."

He quotes the 19th-century statesman Metternich's definition of diplomacy (later echoed by Henry Kissinger) as "building a ladder for the other fellow to step down gracefully." The potential problem is that the ladder could be badly built.

But he won't be drawn on this country's new administration. "Committed and active Zionists abroad must work for [Israel's] democratically elected government unless or until their conscience doesn't allow it because the government's actions are *ultra vires*." Such actions have never happened; Weidenfeld avers that "Nothing any Israeli government has done has given me any twinge of conscience."

Ways to connect with the kids

PARENTING
RUTH MASON

As busy parents, most of us spend our time with the kids simply getting through the routines of the day: helping them dress, making their meals, getting them to and from school, car-pooling to dance classes, taking them to the doctor or to a friend's house, helping with homework, bathing them and putting them to bed.

In between, we've got to do the dishes and the laundry, clean the house and shop for groceries - and hopefully say more than two words to our spouses.

In the midst of this hectic existence, how can we find time to connect to our kids? And if we manage to find the time, how do we successfully make that connection?

When we want to spend emotionally gratifying time with a friend, we sit over a cup of coffee or have a meal together - or even just speak on the phone - and talk. But as any of you who have tried to connect with young children know, it doesn't usually work.

"Kids are different from adults," says Dr. David Yammer, a psychologist at New York's Abraham Joshua Heschel School, who recently spent a year in Jerusalem. "We measure our connection by words. They measure it through play."

If, like me, you are the kind of parent who just doesn't get off on pushing matchbox cars around the living-room floor or dressing and undressing Barbie dolls, don't despair. You can spend satisfying time with your children doing what you like to do.

Ask yourself: What activities give me the most pleasure? And then see which of those you can share with your children. My list included singing, walking in nature, reading and yes, talking.

The following are the first four of 10 activities I can suggest for you and your child to enjoy together. (The second five are in next week's column.)

SINGING

The best thing about singing is that it doesn't take up any time. You can sing while doing the dinner dishes or driving to the store.

My husband, Bob, and I have always sung to our babies and Ilana. Now 11, was singing before she was talking.

When Ilana was five, I started sitting her down to listen to my favorite Judy Collins songs. And when she comes home from school with a new song, I write down the words and she teaches me the tune.

As a result, Ilana and I now often walk down the street singing "I Feel Pretty" or "Ruth and Naomi." There pretty or "Ruth and Naomi." There pretty or "Ruth and Naomi." There pretty or "Ruth and Naomi."

When we share a smile. And the next and now goes both ways. The sharing now goes into the other day Ilana came into the kitchen while one of her cassettes was playing and said, "Mom, please listen to this song. I want you to hear

every verse. It's great."

COMPUTERS

One day, Bob and Yosef, then seven, were in the middle of a heated argument about a handmade bookmark made for Yosef by a friend that Bob had accidentally torn. Yosef was in tears. Minutes later he was sitting, relaxed and smiling, on his Dad's lap as they tried out a new computer game together.

Yosef: "Nuts! You lost your rope."
Bob: "Twenty-five thousand gold doubloons! You have a lot of money, Yosef."
Yosef (smiling with satisfaction): "Wow! You're right."
Bob: "Ooo. Add 1,200 doubloons, two hostages, rope and food to your booty. You're a great pirate, Yosef."
Yosef (softly, with another delighted smile): "I love this."

READING

Even during the busiest of times, a night-time snuggle with a good book is a wonderful, relaxing way for your child to end the day.

Screenwriter Leora Barish (*Desperately Seeking Susan*) loves to discuss characters with Max, 11, and Eliza, eight. "We talk about what we like and what we don't like about them, which we identify with and which reminds us of our friends," says Barish.

"In *Little Women*, Jo isn't jealous of a boy's crush on Meg. Isn't that interesting? We talk about which characters would be jealous and which wouldn't, or how a favorite character is dealing with a conflict with a friend."

"It's a nice way to talk about important things because it's indirect. There's no emotional heat. We can disagree more easily and I learn a lot about the way my kids see themselves and the world."

TOUCH

A five-minute bedtime back-rub can relax both you and your child and give your child the comfort of your touch and quiet presence. Some children who are otherwise reluctant to talk about problems may open up during this time and tell you what's on their minds.

"My son had to have his tonsils out when he was seven. I had done everything to prepare him, including going to visit the hospital together, but he wasn't talking about it at all," recalls Vimalia Schneider, author of *Infant Massage* (Bantam, 1989).

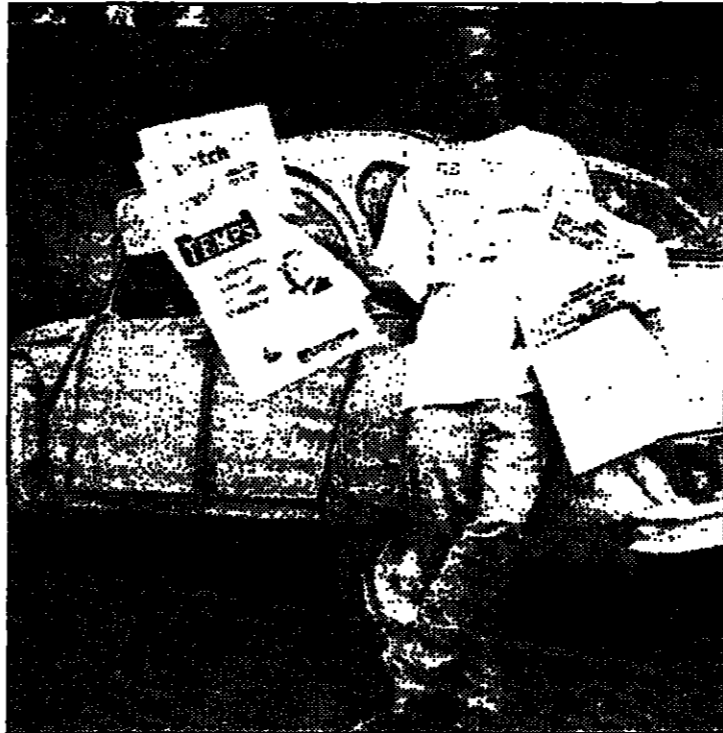
"The night before the surgery, I gave him a back-rub and asked, 'What did you think about our trip to the hospital?' He started talking. 'He asked lots of questions. Would he die? Would he be able to talk when he woke up? He needed the permission to be vulnerable that massage gives him. He opened up and got the reassurance he needed."

Bringing democracy to Africa

THE radios are everywhere. Men in this predominantly Moslem nation carry them to prayers. Women listen in the markets. Youngsters tote tiny transistors as they hop along the streets.

Malians have long depended on radio, but since democracy arrived five years ago, the popularity of that form of entertainment and information has boomed. In 1991 Malians had only one station - long controlled by the country's autocratic regimes. Today they have 40.

The ubiquitous radios are perhaps the most striking of many signs that Mali has transformed itself into a working democracy, built on freedom of expression, the beginnings of a market economy and Mali's own history as an ancient African empire whose artifacts still litter the villages.



A newspaper vendor in Bamako, Mali, offers a number of options where until just recently a government-run paper was the only one available. (Stephen Buckley/Washington Post)

The changes in this landlocked West African nation of 10 million people - a sparsely populated stretch along the edge of the Sahara where nomads still roam on lumbering camels - are especially significant on a continent where many democracies that formed in recent years have stumbled, returning to authoritarian ways.

"It is as if Mali has looked at the mistakes of other African countries and has decided that its democracy will not fall into the same traps," said a Western embassy official.

Six years ago, as the Cold War was ending, it looked as though West Africa might embrace democracy. Mass demonstrations swept capitals from Dakar, Senegal, on the westernmost bulge, to Libreville, Gabon, nearly 3,200 km. east on the equator.

Single-party governments across the region promised - under domestic and international pressure - to hold elections. Mali's own democratic revolution came in early 1991, propelled by student demonstrations.

Since then, however, most of Mali's neighbors have developed wobbly democracies at best; most of those have seen their new systems fall into disarray.

Military coups have shaken Niger and Gambia. The strongmen who dominated Togo, Gabon and Cameroon remain in tight control after holding elections widely considered to be fraudulent. In Ivory Coast, the president has muzzled all opposition - especially the media - and dozens were killed in violence during elections late last year.

The region's cornerstone - powerful, populous, oil-rich Nigeria - has vowed since a military coup in 1985 that a return to democracy was imminent. But timetables have been scrapped, elections nullified and promises broken, and the coun-

try remains under repressive military rule.

Aside from Mali, only Benin, which in March held its second free presidential election, has a seemingly viable, long-term democracy in place. Benin's constitutional court announced that ex-Marxist military ruler Mathieu Kerekou had defeated incumbent President Nicéphore Soglo.

Indeed, Mali's move to permit the media free rein defies a trend throughout Africa, where leaders have smothered outlets that offend them. Along with the blossoming of new radio stations, Mali has about 60 newspapers. For decades, only the government newspaper was available.

In recent months, Mali also has trodden on the continent's commandment, "Thou Shall Not Criticize Thy Neighbor," blasting Nigeria's executions of nine political activists late last year and condemning the recent coup in Niger.

The moves have drawn praise from human-rights groups such as New York-based Freedom House, which has added Mali to its list of "free" nations.

Perhaps most important, Mali's government, led by President Alpha Oumar Konare, has stepped away from oppressive economic policies employed by previous regimes. Mali has privatized most government-owned companies, opened itself up to foreign investors and sought to stir more domestic investment.

Hamadou Sylla pursued a foreign partner for his company for a decade. He finally got one in 1994.

"They did not trust the previous regime," Sylla said. "They felt the situation was unstable.

And then the government did not care about helping business."

Modibo Diallo, who owns Radio Bamako, the city's most popular station, said the avalanche of print and broadcast outlets has rejuvenated political and social debate. In restaurants, at work, sitting beneath ever-present mango trees, Malians appear to be perpetually arguing.

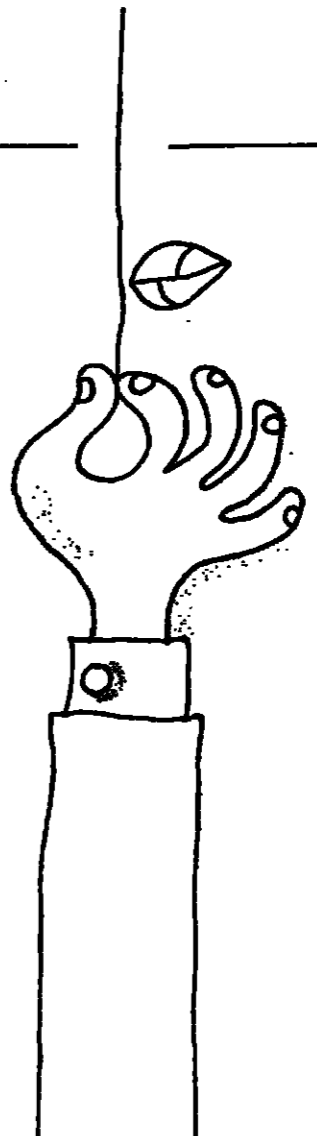
"It is as if the people have learned to breathe," Diallo said. "And for the first time, the people in power must think before they act, because there is now accountability that did not exist before."

Yet critics of Konare call for still more openness, and they worry that government has not done enough to tackle major problems, such as an 80 percent adult-illiteracy rate.

Others worry that the government, for all its progressive economic policies, remains a presence in some of Mali's strongest industries. The government, for example, holds the controlling stake in the main cotton-producing company. Mali produces 400,000 tons of cotton annually.

Yet Malians shrug off such worries, reminding visitors that they were a nation long before they embraced modern-day democracy. They are quick to note that their 12 ethnic groups governed themselves for centuries before French colonization.

Each ethnic group governed a region of the empire. The governors of each region had to work together to preserve economic and political balance. The result: one of Africa's more stable and powerful empires. (The Washington Post)



The best service award in Tel Aviv's luxury hotels

Who won 1st prize?

The hotel that knows that nothing's more important than "Making it special for you"

Sheraton Tel Aviv HOTEL & TOWERS naturally!

The first prize for best service in Tel-Aviv's luxury hotels was awarded to the Sheraton Tel-Aviv by the Tel-Aviv-Yafo Association for Tourism. The award was made following spot checks conducted by the Association's unidentified inspectors.

In these times you cannot AFFORD to be without THE JERUSALEM POST INTERNATIONAL EDITION

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Wednesday, June 26,

FIBI, Aurek set up credit card company

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

FIRST International Bank of Israel (FIBI) in partnership with the Aurek Group has established a new credit card company...

FIBI managing director Shlomo Piotrkovsky said the company was set up several weeks after the board of directors of Visa International...

Fibi has a 67 percent share in the new company while Aurek owns the remaining 33%.

Aurek Group is engaged in data communications and media services and includes Golden Pages, Golden Channels and Amdocs.

The new company will compete with Israel Credit Cards (ICC), which up until now has been the only full licensee of Visa in Israel...

An ICC spokesperson said ICC does not plan to make life easy for its new competitor.

South African group signs intent to buy 52.4% of Israel General Bank

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

INVESTEC Group, one of the largest banking groups in South Africa, yesterday signed a letter of intent to purchase Baron Edmond de Rothschild's 52.4 percent stake in Israel General Bank (IGB)...

The letter of intent was signed with Isrop Participations SA, which is part of La Compagnie Financiere Edmond de Rothschild Banque...

Investec is an international group which operates commercial banks and investment banks, focusing on providing financial services and private banking.

Clal Issuing, the investment banking arm of Clal Israel, which initiated the transaction, said Investec intends to continue IGB's current activities while expanding some of them.

IGB is a small commercial bank with three branches in Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem.

The transaction also fits in with the Bank of Israel's policy to reduce the degree of concentration in the banking system and promote competition.

According to the letter of intent, an agreement will be signed within two weeks. The transaction remains subject to the approval of the Supervisor of Banks...

It will take the Bank of Israel about two months to conduct its examination of the group. During the last few weeks Abeles has received positive recommendations on Investec from the Supervisor of Banks in South Africa and also England.

In 1986, Investec went public on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and since then it has increased its operations locally and internationally. The bank's international acquisitions include the British financial group Reichmans...

Foreign Ministry denies link to Turkish-Cypriot tourism

DAVID HARRIS

AN as yet unidentified Israeli businessman is being linked to a proposed \$100 million tourism venture planned for Turkish-controlled northern Cyprus...

The Nicosia-based, Greek-Cypriot newspaper said the unnamed entrepreneur is part of a consortium that intends to build a 5,000-bed facility near Famagusta...

The Israeli government denied press reports that it is involved. "We are not involved in any way in alleged economic and private initiatives on northern Cyprus..."

Israel's involvement in such a project would undoubtedly cause tensions between Jerusalem, Nicosia, and Greece. Following Cyprus' 1974 civil war, Greece has considered the north, which is only recognized diplomatically by Turkey, to be a no-go area.

"We don't support any investment in northern Cyprus," said a Greek government official yesterday.

The Greek Embassy in Tel Aviv said it is not aware of any such plans. Cyprus officials say any such investment is illegal and financially futile.

Jewish Agency assembly approves 1996 budget

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE Jewish Agency assembly yesterday approved a \$525 million budget for 1996 that includes a \$106m deficit...

The budget also reflects the agency's transfer in the fall of its Youth Aliya program to the government.

The agency has cut \$50m from this year's programs as part of a plan to save \$500m by the year 2000.

Agency activities in the former Soviet Union will cost an estimated \$137.8m compared with \$148.9m in 1995.

for 40 percent of the budget with 60% for absorption. The Jewish Agency expects another 70,000 immigrants this year, 60,000 of them from the former Soviet Union. The budget allocates \$6.2m to Israeli institutions and projects, including the Reform and Conservative movements...

American contributions account for two-thirds of agency income, and the United Jewish Appeal is obligated next year to

raise its annual allocation by \$20m.

The US government provides \$80m, a year under a program to resettle refugees.

UJA President Richard Wexler of Chicago expects US fund-raising to be flat or show only a modest increase this year. The agency budget, however, calls for \$201m from UJA in 1996 compared with \$198.5m in 1995.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Electric Corp. launches 103 customer helpline: In its continuing campaign to improve customer relations the Electric Corp. launched its 103 customer helpline yesterday.

Korean car manufacturer looking for local partner: The head of the Korean Halla Group will visit in September in an attempt to find Israeli partners for a car components manufacturing enterprise.

Tadiran Communications to sell ware in Southeast Asia: Tadiran Communications will supply \$24 million worth of military equipment and systems to countries in Southeast Asia...

Scottish trade mission has ideas for Israel: A Scottish trade mission visiting Israel in the second week of July will recommend companies here use closed-circuit television cameras to improve production line efficiency.

Deutsche Telekom builds stake in Asia: Deutsche Telekom yesterday signed an agreement to buy one-fifth of Malaysia's Technology Resources Industries Bhd, and said it wants to build a stake in Asia's huge telecommunications market.

Asia is going to be the most important market for telecommunications in the 21st century, Deutsche Telekom's management board chairman Ron Sommer said after signing the agreement with TRI chairman Tajudin Ramli.

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Asia is going to be the most important market for telecommunications in the 21st century, Deutsche Telekom's management board chairman Ron Sommer said after signing the agreement with TRI chairman Tajudin Ramli.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS table with columns for Currency deposit rates, Patah (foreign currency deposit rates), and Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates.

FOR HOME OWNERS CAPITALIZATION CAMPAIGN advertisement featuring an illustration of a house and a person, with text explaining the campaign and listing regional branches.

Green light for increased Postal Bank services advertisement by David Harris.

Reading between the lines... you have time for trading action until 11 PM advertisement for Israel Discount Bank.

ANDREW PECK ASSOCIATES INC. advertisement for U.S. market access, low commission rates, and personal service.

DRIVE CAREFULLY advertisement with a graphic of a car and a driver.

Key Representative Rates

US dollar ... NIS 2.2310 -0.1%
Sterling ... NIS 4.9767 +0.10%
Mark ... NIS 2.1061 -0.10%

ISRAELI STOCK MARKET

New York market indexes

DJ Industrials 9714.84 -2.85
DJ Transport 2188.18 -0.49
DJ Utility 212.2 -0.17

NYSE stocks

Volume up (in 1000s) 142575
Volume down (in 1000s) 149108

Other stock market indexes

FTSE 100 3076.6 -0.1
Nikkei 22927.1 -0.3
DAX 3250.2 -0.2

Israeli stocks in NY

NYSE / AMEX Last Change
Asi Pet 45.5 +0.4
Aramco 10.5 -0.1

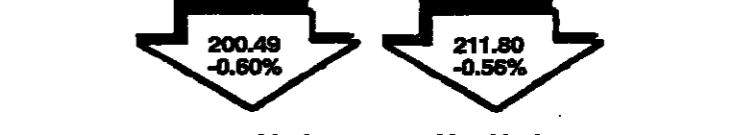
TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading Two-sided trading

Table of Tel Aviv stock market data including Commercial Banks, Insurance, Mortgage Banks & Finance, Financial Institutions, Trade & Services, Property, Building & Agriculture, and Oil Exploration.

TASE continues to be affected by interest rate hike

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET ROBERT DANIEL



Two-Sided Index Maof Index
STOCK indexes fell for a second day after the Bank of Israel raised interest rates.

The Maof Index fell 0.56 percent to 211.8, while the Mish-tanin Index fell 0.6% to 200.49. The most active stock was Jerusalem Oil Exploration Ltd., which dropped 6.6% on NIS 4.3 million of shares traded.

Analysts held out hope for a possible agreement on an economic plan, including a government-spending cut, between Bank Governor Jacob Frenkel and Finance Minister Dan Meridor.

"It looks like they are cooperating," said David Rosenberg, head of research at Pacific Mediterranean Securities in Herzliya. In contrast to past interest rate increases, "the Finance Ministry had no comment," he said. Previously, "the ministry would have said, 'the central bank is responsible.'"

On Monday, the central bank lifted the rate at which it lends to banks for the fourth time this year, to 17% from 15.5%. It came after the May consumer price index rose a higher-than-expected 1.7%. That puts inflation at an annualized 17%, compared with 8% last year.

Across the Tel Aviv Stock exchange, some NIS 67.9m. of shares traded, down from NIS 78.6m. Monday, or about 3 1/2 issues fell for each that rose. Israel General Bank shares did not trade because of its announcement Baron Edmond de Rothschild would sell his 52.78% stake in the bank.

The shekel closed unchanged at 2.321 to the dollar. Teva was unchanged. Koor Industries Ltd. fell 1.5%. The Tadiran Ltd. subsidiary of Koor dropped 1.3% in Tel Aviv. Elbit Ltd. fell 1.5%.

Banks were mixed. First International Bank was unchanged. Bank Leumi added 0.4% while Bank Hapoalim lost 0.4%. Discount Bank dropped 1.75%. Among chemical companies, Makhteshim dropped 2%, while Dea Sea Works was unchanged.

The Clal group fell. Parent Clal Israel fell 1.3%. Subsidiaries Clal Industries and Clal Electronic dropped 1.2% and 2% respectively. Osem added 0.3% and Elite rose 1%.

(Bloomberg)

FTSE drops again WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Leading UK shares dropped to a three-month low, depressed by a weak futures market and once again struggling off firm gilts and strength in leading European bourses. The FTSE 100 index chalked up its sixth straight loss, closing down 31.3 points at 3,679.5 - its lowest since March 28 - after dropping through the 3,700 level in early trading. Losers outnumbered gainers by some eight-to-one.

FRANKFURT - The IBIS DAX index inched to a new all-time high in afternoon post-bourse trade. The index reach a trading high of 2,582.79 points. It closed at 2,578.36 up 16.17 points running out steam somewhat and trading sideways after reaching the record high. Earlier, the DAX index, which gauges floor trade in 30 blue-chip stocks, closed at 2,572.96 points, up 6.53 points.

PARIS - Stocks closed almost one percent higher, buoyed by strong bonds and helped by firmness in the active and growing demand for Swiss Re and Nestle led the market higher in the second half of the session. The broad Swiss Performance Index was down 1.84 points at 2,384.99.

TOKYO - Stocks closed a touch weaker in subdued trading as the market took a breather after scoring gains for five consecutive trading days. Brokers said the market was trying to get ready to test a higher level, with backing from firm investor demand. The key 225-share Nikkei average ended down 6.03 points, or 0.03 percent, at 22,597.17.

HONG KONG - Stocks closed with modest gains in range-trading, influenced by New York stocks' strength and index futures transactions. The blue chip Hang Seng Index added 23.05 points to close at 10,982.77.

SYDNEY - Weaker metals prices ensured the share market ended lower, the market playing according to script with negative sentiment among the resources overcoming a steady industrial sector. The All Ordinaries index fell 4.4 points to close at 2,254.3.

JOHANNESBURG - Shares ended firm in quiet trade ahead of the Kwazulu-Natal local elections on Wednesday. Dealers said industrial were boosted by Absa Bank announcing a cut in both its prime lending and mortgage rate, and golds lifted on improved sentiment in bullion. The all-share index finished up 32.7 points to 6,891.8, the industrial index gained 34.5 points to 8,144.2 and the gold index rose 19.8 points to 1,812.

NY stocks end mixed WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks ended mixed yesterday as some signs of weakness in consumer demand eased some inflation worries, but added to concerns about company revenues. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 1.48 to close at 5,719.27, after improving from a late deficit of 18 points, but shedding a morning gain of 12.

Technology shares were hit hard again, weighing down the Nasdaq market amid growing worries about the prospects for disappointing profits in the computer sector. Most broad-market indexes also turned lower, after a strong opening with bonds. The pace of trading picked up.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table with columns: MARK, STERLING, YEN, SFR, FFY. Values: MARK 2.35/433, STERLING 1.4017/94, YEN 167.84/66, SFR 0.8244/47, FFY 3.3658/60.

INFLATION MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

Table of dollar crossrates for various currencies including Franc, Mark, Yen, etc.

Labor rates

Table of labor rates for different terms like 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds 34 Ben Yehuda St. Jerusalem, Tel. 02-244963, 03-5758826 Fax. 02-244876

INFLATIONARY RISK METALS

US commodities

Table of US commodity prices for items like Corn, Soybean, Wheat, etc.

London commodities

Table of London commodity prices for items like Cocoa, Coffee, Sugar, etc.

Spot market metals (US)

Table of spot market metal prices for Gold, Silver, etc.

New York metal futures

Table of New York metal futures prices for Gold, Silver, etc.

London metal fixes

Table of London metal fix prices for Gold, Silver, etc.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices for various countries including New York, London, Frankfurt, etc.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK THE PEOPLE YOU CAN BANK ON

Kfar Sava man tries to kill daughters, then kills himself

RAINE MARCUS

A Kfar Sava man committed suicide yesterday after attempting to murder his two teenage daughters. The girls, 14 and 17, suffered light neck wounds.

Early yesterday morning, the man's neighbors heard screams coming from his apartment. A neighbor broke in and found the girls in bed choking, with plastic cuffs tied around their necks. The neighbor succeeded in releasing the cuffs, and the girls were brought to Meir Hospital.

Residents called police, who launched a search for the father, who had fled. His body was found hanging in a nearby field by his 21-year-old son.

The father, publication of whose name is banned since the girls are minors, worked as a guard in the city's shopping mall, and was in the process of getting a divorce. Neighbors said the man "reached the end of his tether" when he discovered that his daughters had been seeing Arabs.

The older had fought with her father in the past, and had even lodged a complaint with police. The man reportedly told neighbors that he would kill himself, but had not threatened to murder his daughters.

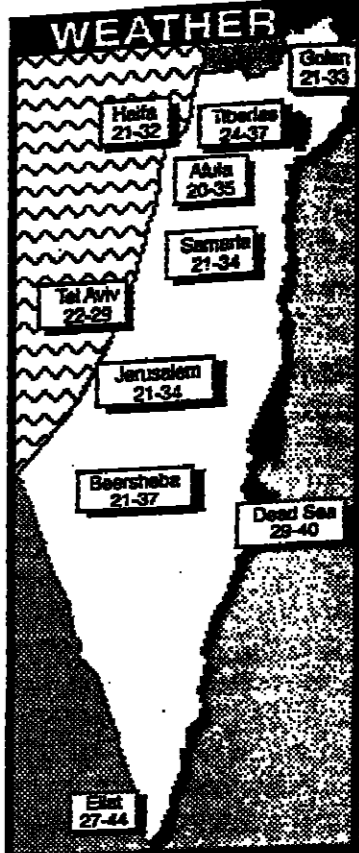
The attempted double murder and subsequent suicide was also believed to be the result of constant quarreling between him and his estranged wife, police said.

"The whole incident is tragic," said Sharon police chief Dep.-Cmdr. Benny Kanayak. "The son who found his father's body is in a deep state of shock and is undergoing psychiatric treatment." His wife was also in a "terrible state."

The man left a suicide note saying he could not stand the shame of his daughters hanging around with Arabs and that he could not see an end to the disputes with his wife.



Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, wearing a flak jacket and carrying an M-16 assault rifle, visits a forward position in the security zone yesterday. Next to him is OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine, and Deputy Chief of General Staff Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i is second from left. (Defense Ministry)



AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Weather
Amsterdam	10	15	cloudy
Berlin	10	15	cloudy
Chicago	10	15	clear
Copenhagen	10	15	cloudy
Geneva	10	15	cloudy
Helsinki	10	15	cloudy
Hong Kong	27	32	clear
London	10	15	clear
Los Angeles	10	15	clear
Moscow	10	15	cloudy
Madrid	10	15	clear
New York	10	15	cloudy
Paris	10	15	cloudy
Rome	10	15	clear
Stockholm	10	15	cloudy
Tokyo	27	32	clear
Toronto	10	15	clear
Warsaw	10	15	cloudy
Zurich	10	15	cloudy

Bills call for abolishment of direct election of PM

LIAT COLLINS

TWO private member's bills calling for the abolishment of the system of direct election of the prime minister have been submitted to the Knesset.

One was submitted jointly by Uzi Landau (Likud) and Yossi Beilin (Labor), who worked together to try to reform the system before the elections, despite belonging to rival parties. The other is by Moshe Shahal (Labor). The bills call for repealing or amending the direct election clauses of the Basic Law: The Government.

The Beilin-Landau bill presents two options: one is that the leader of the party which wins the largest number of votes will be prime minister - basically the old system; the other is to elect the prime minister within the Knesset, much as the Speaker is chosen, with each faction presenting its candidate and a general vote in the plenum.

"The law has been tried and exactly what we warned would happen, happened," Beilin said yesterday.

"The major parties were cut by a third; ideology became a joke; and party conventions were just shows. It makes no difference who won. The question is whether the system is a good one or not and we have seen even more serious problems than we predicted."

He said the reform had wide support from MKs from different parties, but it is not clear how the smaller parties would vote on such a bill, as they gained the most from the new system.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is in favor of the new system and reportedly has told Landau he will do everything possible to preserve it. But Landau criticized the current system for giving the prime minister and the small parties more power and destabilizing the Knesset. Shahal also said that instead of realizing its aim of reducing the amount of political bargaining by smaller parties, the direct election system has increased their power.

Police seeking to hire more Arabs

BILL HUTMAN

THE police force is seeking to hire more Arabs to serve in east Jerusalem, to improve police operations and relations with the community, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday, during a tour of the police station near the Old City. But he was unable to say how he was going to convince Arabs to join the police force.

Nearly all the city's Arab policemen resigned at the start of the intifada, and few have joined since.

Mordechai: IDF will stay in zone as long as is necessary

DAVID RUDGE

THE IDF will remain in the security zone as long as it is necessary to protect northern communities and "our friends in the zone," Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday during a visit to south Lebanon.

"If the Lebanese government and those behind it demonstrate the ability to prevent terror activities against the IDF and South Lebanese Army, then it would certainly be possible to sit together and reach agreements," said Mordechai.

"If only the Lebanese government was independent and showed ability to deal with the problems, then we could enter negotiations and find many solutions," he told reporters during a visit to the IDF and SLA's command headquarters in Marjayoun.

It was perhaps symbolic as well as significant that Mordechai made his first visit in the field as Defense Minister to Northern Command which he commanded for over four years, until 48-months ago.

His first stop was at Northern Command headquarters where he was greeted by honor guard. From there he flew by helicopter with Deputy Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Matan Vilna'i and OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine to a front-line IDF outpost in the eastern sector of the zone - not far from the spot where five Nahal soldiers were killed and eight others were wounded in a recent Hizbullah ambush.

Mordechai, armed with an M-16 assault rifle, then flew to Marjayoun to continue his review of the situation in the region in the wake of Operation Grapes of Wrath and Hizbullah's intensified operations against the IDF and SLA.

He was briefed about the latest situation by senior officers at an observation post on the roof of the Marjayoun command post, as the blast of outgoing artillery fire reverberated in the background.

Mordechai made it clear that Israel would closely examine any breaches by Hizbullah of the Grapes of Wrath understandings.

"We will find the right ways to deal with Hizbullah and the other elements behind it. That's our task and mission to provide security to northern communities, while also minimizing risks to the IDF and SLA," said Mordechai.

He was asked whether the IDF would be given more freedom of action against Hizbullah. "My visit here is mainly to learn and understand the situation in the field, after Grapes of Wrath," said Mordechai.

"General Staff is drawing up recommendations and I expect that most of these will be approved. Everything will be done in this area to give maximum protection to the IDF and SLA and residents of the region, and especially to residents of northern communities," said Mordechai.

Ministry to probe leading hematologist accused of withholding transfusion

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health Ministry is investigating accusations that the chief of hematology at Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital refused to grant treatment to a 19-year-old woman with lymphoma who needed a blood transfusion.

Ironically, Prof. Eliezer Rachmilevich, one of the country's leading experts in blood diseases, has also become the investigative target of *Ma'ariv* reporter Ronel Fisher. The hematologist is a member of the Navon Commission established as a result of Fisher's report on the Magen David Adom-Ethiopian immigrant blood affair of a few months ago.

The latest Fisher report involves Dassy Rabinowitz, a 19-year-old Efrat resident suffering from a severe case of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Her cancer of the lymph glands was discovered by Rachmilevich and she was treated at Hadassah for 18 months, undergoing chemotherapy and a bone-marrow transplant. The cancer returned, however, and her doctors told her parents the prognosis was poor.

The religious family then consulted with rabbis, who recommended that "changing place changes fortune" and urged them to move her to another hospital.

Rabinowitz was transferred to Haifa's Rambam Hospital, where she was treated for several weeks by Prof. Ya'acov Rao, head of hematology, and his staff. But in mid-May, back in Efrat, she took a turn for the worse. Relatives called Hadassah and asked Rachmilevich to admit her for an urgent blood transfusion, because it was too far to take her to Haifa in her condition.

According to Fisher and quoted yesterday by Rabinowitz's mother, Bruria, the Hadassah doctors and nurses said they had "strict orders" from Rachmilevich not to admit her, "because she had gone to Rambam for a second opinion."

The young woman received a transfusion at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital the next day.

On Sunday, Rachmilevich wrote a letter denying the charges to Amnon Rabi of *Ma'ariv*. In the letter, Rachmilevich said that Rao - his former student - did provide him with Rabinowitz's latest medical information. He wrote that on May 2, Rabinowitz arrived at his department unannounced to receive antibiotics and a blood transfusion. She was treated, even though Rambam had not transferred to Hadassah a report of how she had been treated since leaving Hadassah.

On May 14, Rachmilevich wrote, he got a call from a "man who identified himself as Dassy's father." The man said the young woman had a very low thrombocyte count and asked if she could come in for a transfusion. Rachmilevich said he referred the man to Rao, since he lacked the latest medical information about her case and might be endangering her if she received inappropriate treatment.

Rachmilevich said the caller then "told me a joke and closed the conversation saying, 'You'll hear from me again' - and abruptly hung up the phone." He did not give me the opportunity to explain the importance of orderly medical referrals. Presenting the story as if he had refused her medical treatment at Hadassah is ugly and untrue."

Rachmilevich said he learned the man who called "was not Dassy's father," and believes the conversation was recorded without his knowledge. The hematologist said he does not know whether the caller was the *Ma'ariv* investigative reporter, but that "misquotes" of his comments had later been used by Fisher in his report.

Rachmilevich told his staff after the May 2 transfusion that it could be dangerous if another were given without the necessary medical information from Rambam, and that if Rabinowitz appeared in the hospital again, they should first consult with him. But he stressed that if she had turned up asking for an urgent transfusion - instead of someone else calling before - she would have gotten one despite the possible risk. Going to another hospital for a second opinion is every patient's "legitimate right," he added.

The ministry's investigating committee is to present its findings within two weeks.

Winning cards and numbers

IN yesterday's Mifal Hapais daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the 8 of spades, ace of hearts, 9 of diamonds, and 8 of clubs.

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 3, 4, 7, 29, 34, 36 and the additional number was 48.

Bereaved family petitions for appointment of new IDF officers' school chief

EVELYN GORDON

AN officer who is under indictment for negligence in the death of one of his soldiers should not be the new head of the IDF's officer training school, a petition to the High Court of Justice said yesterday.

The petition was filed by Masoud and Aliza Shushan, whose son Yanai was killed in a training accident in Givat Adar two years ago. Yanai was killed when a grenade he was carrying in his kit exploded during an exercise. The army appointed an investigating judge to look into the affair, and the judge concluded that had the army applied the lessons learned from another accident a few months earlier, Yanai might not have been killed.

On the basis of this report, the Judge Advocate-General's Office decided to indict five officers, including Col. Horev, who commanded Yanai's brigade. The trial is due to begin shortly.

A few days ago, however, Horev was appointed to head the IDF's officer training school.

The petition argued that it is inconceivable to entrust someone charged with negligence causing the death of one of his men with the job of training other young officers.

It noted that according to the investigating judge's findings, Horev never instructed his officers and men on the proper procedures for exercises with live grenades. According to Horev, this oversight occurred because he did not even know that such instructions existed.

When told that soldiers are supposed to inspect their grenades daily, however, he responded that in his opinion, this is not practical, and once a week is sufficient.

"The mind cannot comprehend that such a senior officer, who did not know and did not hear and did not see - who is suspected of causing the death of one of the soldiers in his unit and who is about to stand trial for this - should hold so important and responsible a position," the petition said.

The fact that the army has given him this job despite the pending trial raises the suspicion that it has already fixed things so that he will be acquitted, the petition added.

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